

November 2015

# CONGRESSWOMAN TERRI SEWELL

REPRESENTING ALABAMA'S 7TH DISTRICT



It is an honor to serve you in Congress! One of the most important responsibilities I have as your Representative is to update you on the work my office is doing on your behalf. This newsletter serves as an update on the progress we have made both in Washington and in Alabama's 7th Congressional District during the month of November.

For more information on recent developments in our office, please visit our website at <http://sewell.house.gov/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terri Sewell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Rep. Sewell Visits Cuba with U.S. Agriculture Secretary



I was excited to join Agriculture Secretary Vilsack for a historic visit to Cuba in November. This visit built on the trade summit my office hosted in Montgomery earlier this year with U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman.

Alabama exported approximately \$32.8 million to Cuba in 2014, according to the Foreign Trade Division of the U.S. Census Bureau. Access to foreign markets and fair trade policies that benefit American workers will help create new jobs, and allow Alabama exporters to continue to thrive. This trip helped build on Alabama's trading relationships with Cuba.



Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, Representatives Suzan DelBene (WA-1), and Representative Kurt Schrader (OR-5) also participated in the Congressional delegation to Cuba.

## Rep. Sewell Hosts Second Black Belt Town Hall on State Budget Cuts



While my office has been a vocal opponent of the negative impacts of state budget cuts in our district, we know that your voices must be heard as we work to find meaningful solutions that will restore essential services to rural communities.

On November 9, we hosted a town hall in Perry County that was the second in a series highlighting the impact of Alabama's budget cuts on the Black Belt. Special thanks to Berean Baptist Church for hosting us, and to State Senator Hank Sanders and State Representative Darrio Melton for participating in the town hall! Rural Alabamians are the backbone of our great state. As your elected officials, we are committed to ensuring that your voices are heard.

## Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award Celebration



Congratulations to civil rights trailblazer Vernon Jordan. Mr. Jordan received the Fred L. Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award on November 21 for his outstanding contributions to society as a great statesman and humanitarian.

### Constituent Success Story

A veteran contacted our Montgomery office asking for assistance with his disability claim. We noticed multiple errors with his disability determination, so we took his file to the Veterans Regional Office for review.

The Veterans Regional Office notified us in September that they would make a new determination in his case. On November 1, the veteran received more than \$100,000 in back pay.

### Connect With Us

Please be sure to “like” us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#) to receive Congressional updates and stay informed of office events!

It is an honor to serve the 7<sup>th</sup> District in Congress. We'll be back in touch again soon!



## Project R.E.A.D.Y.: The Young Entrepreneurs Edition

My office recently launched, “Project R.E.A.D.Y: The Young Entrepreneurs Edition,” which brought together 60 students from the Business and Financial Career Academy at Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, community leaders, and small business owners. The students were divided into teams or “small businesses,” and developed business plans. Each of the student businesses rotated through stations where they learned the professional skills needed to successfully “launch” their idea, and to “pitch” their business to potential customers and investors. The student businesses received constructive feedback on their mock business proposals from the various career coaches who participated. This new Young Entrepreneurs Edition continues our commitment to create innovative Project R.E.A.D.Y programming for high school students to ensure they are well prepared to enter the workforce.



### Launching #RestoreTheVOTE

On November 3, I was proud to stand with my congressional colleagues to launch the #RestoreTheVOTE legislative strategy — one year before our nation votes for our next President. This national effort will help mobilize support for the Voting Rights Advancement Act, a bill that I sponsored with Representatives Judy Chu and Linda Sanchez to restore and expand federal oversight to jurisdictions which have a recent history of voter discrimination.

While we no longer have to count marbles in a jar or recite the names of every county judge, there are still laws that make it harder for people to vote.

By launching #RestoreTheVOTE, our hope is to mobilize grassroots support for federal legislation that eliminates unnecessary barriers to the ballot box. In order to pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act we must get everyday Americans to demand congressional action to protect voting rights. We cannot silence ANY voices within our electorate. We must RESTORE THE V.O.T.E. — the VOICES OF THE EXCLUDED!

